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Senator Brown, came from up state, and as a consequence had no adequate notion of how to go about the investigation. The committee repeatedly struck promising leads, but these were seldom followed up as they should have been.

The net result of its labors was a general opinion that graft and misgovernment are prevalent in New York City, but a woeful lack of the proofs that a more competent company of investigators might easily have supplied.

The committee's continued existence promised nothing useful. Its discharge may clear the way for the creation of a legislative investigating body able to do the work it is appointed to do.

**The Lakes-to-Ocean Canal**

"The Washington Herald" says that New York is "dodging" the merits of the St. Lawrence canal project—that she has simply "invited against" it instead of "challenging" it. New Yorkers have been naturally chagrined that the Joint International Commission made a report favoring American participation in the St. Lawrence ship canal project, without due public consideration of alternative projects. But let us take "The Herald's" rebuke to heart and remove cause for any repetition of the grave charge of "inviting."

The construction of a ship canal from Lake Ontario to Montreal would affect transportation from the Mississippi Valley to many Atlantic ports. It implies Federal aid to one tidewater route, mostly in foreign territory, with no Federal aid given to other competing routes. May not this be mentioned? The problem is a big, complicated one. It has never been adequately examined or discussed. Is it offensive to note this?

From both the national and the continental point of view it is desirable to create a better outlet to tidewater for Western products. The West is entitled to the outlet which is economically most advantageous. New York will not dispute that premise. All she asks is that the Federal government shall omit no effort to determine which of the available outlets is the best. There is offered a waterway from Oswego to the Mohawk and thence to the Hudson, terminating in the greatest of American ports. If the Federal government is prepared to pay half or more of the cost of the St. Lawrence canal, on the ground that it is a great international improvement, there is even more reason why it should consider investing, as an alternative, in an Ontario-Hudson canal, on the ground that the latter is a great national improvement.

New York is a far better port than Montreal. It will become, after the Port Authority plans are carried out, one of the best equipped as well as most capacious ports in the world. It can be made, without great engineering difficulties, the terminus of a ship canal from the Great Lakes. Why, then, not consider the advantages which it offers as such a terminus?

New York isn't occupied in inveighing against other projects. What it wants is merely a decision in which the broadest interests are kept steadily in view.

**An Appeal to Reason**

If the city administration will meet Governor Miller half way a means can be found of straightening out the traction tangle and giving to New York the vast advantage of organized and well equipped port facilities.

In his address to the Merchants' Association the Governor made plain his desire to co-operate with Mr. Hyman and the other city officers in the formulation of plans that will relieve an intolerable situation.

"I deplore, and I cannot make my language too strong, the disposition which seems to exist in some quarters to create factions and political differences in dealing with problems in which there should be no politics whatever."

"There can be no possible conflict of interests. We invite, we beseech, co-operation and constructive criticism. Instead of seeking to create conflict or seeking to set up an independent sovereignty here—at the gateway of the nation—all the people in the state should co-operate to do those things which are in the interest of all the people."

This is plain, common sense. Never, while time runs on, can any sound solution of New York City's problems be reached if these problems are to be made the subject of continuous political controversy.

Governor Miller has shown by his words and his acts that he is eager to help the city out of its troubles. He does not set himself up as a dictator. He does not insist that his suggested solution is the only possible solution. He asks the aid of the city authorities, and agrees to consider any constructive plan they have to offer.

And he speaks, not as an individual, not as a politician, but as the Governor of the people of the whole State of New York, who have, and always will have, an abiding interest in this "gateway of the nation."

Mr. Hyman and his associates will do well to regard the Governor's speech as an invitation to a peace conference. They ought to be as much interested in better traction, better port facilities and a better charter, as is the Governor. They

may fancy they know more about these things than he does, but the fact remains that they can accomplish nothing without the aid of the Legislature, and the Governor is the only man who can secure united action by the Legislature.

With his aid they can succeed. Without it they can only bring about delay after delay, while the wharves become clogged with unmovable freights and people are forced to walk for want of adequate transit facilities.

Not even political capital can be made of the present policy of opposition, for the effect of further blocking of traffic will destroy any administration which has been a party to it.

Governor Miller does not mean to permit the advance of fares, and has said so. He does not mean to deprive the people of New York of the right to run their own business, and so declared. He is interested only in the good of the city and in the resultant good that will come thereby to the state.

His record as Governor proves that he is not to be bullied or backed out of the position he has taken. He will co-operate fairly and honestly with the city administration. Can the administration afford to ignore his peace overtures?

**The Ways and Means Vacancy**

Backed by Senators Wadsworth and Calder and the city's Republican delegation, Representative Ogden L. Mills, of the 17th District, is urged for membership on the House Ways and Means Committee, where a vacancy has developed through the resignation of Representative Houghton, of Corning, to be Ambassador to Germany.

Of Federal internal revenue taxes collected during the year ended June 30 last New York paid \$1,125,472,774, or nearly one-fourth of the country's total. Of the state's payments three-fourths were contributed by the city.

In view of these figures it is not strange that the city would like to be represented on the majority side—something it is not—of the committee which prepares tax bills. Not only is the city interested in internal revenue taxes, but its business establishments in the first instance pay the greater part of the customs taxes, while the city, as the country's largest manufacturing center, is vitally concerned in the level of protective rates. Surely these things furnish solid claims to consideration.

While a member of New York's Senate Mr. Mills gained a high reputation for his work on taxation problems. He is one of the country's most earnest students of all tax questions. Thus he adds pre-eminent fitness to the argument of residence. It may be confidently predicted that he would as a member of the committee be controlled by the broad national views.

The only argument heard against his selection is that he is a new member. But it has been the practice of the House to suspend the lockstep priority rule in the presence of exceptional merit.

**Population and Food Supply**

Professor Edwin Grant Conklin, of Princeton, is reported as forecasting that, if the present rate of immigration is maintained, within two hundred years the United States will import half of its food supply. A prediction which it will take two centuries to fulfill or to disprove is pretty safe to make. Many things will happen in that time, and neither the maker nor any of the hearers of the prophecy will be here to see whether it comes true or not. As a suggestion, however, that our population is outgrowing our food production Professor Conklin's remark deserves attention.

Statistics bearing upon the subject are available for sixty years preceding the World War—from 1850 to 1910. That was the period during which we received our greatest volume of immigration and in which we had the greatest increase of population, before the war disturbed conditions to a degree which makes statistics for the last dozen years unfit for use in comparisons. From the figures of the seven decennial censuses for the years indicated and those of other official reports it does not appear that the food supply has been lagging behind population, but rather the contrary.

Thus, the increase in population from 1850 to 1910 was almost exactly 400 per cent, a rate which we are scarcely likely to exceed hereafter, immigration or no immigration. But greater still was the increase in production of the chief articles of food. The production of corn, which is the greatest of all our crops, increased in those years by about 480 per cent. The wheat crop, the greatest of all breadstuffs, increased by no less than 635 per cent. The number of cattle, the source of milk, butter and cheese and the most important source of meat, increased by 460 per cent. The total value of farm products in only the forty years from 1870 to 1910 increased by 434 per cent, or more than the population in sixty years.

In view of these figures Professor Conklin's prophecy seems unduly pessimistic. There should be improvement of our agriculture, so as to have less idle and waste land, and to have a larger yield of crops to the acre. But these ends are now being

striven for as never before, and we may anticipate substantial and gratifying achievements in those directions. The nation is not going to starve, and not in two hundred years is it likely to be dependent upon other lands for half of its food supply.

**What the Dyer Bill Does**

The House of Representatives has passed the Dyer anti-lynching bill by nearly a two-thirds majority. The only argument openly used by the opposition was the state rights argument. The bill was attacked on the ground that it asserted a Federal power to compel state and county governments to respect Federal commitments. This was the issue which the majority had to meet and was glad to meet.

Through treaties the Federal government promises alien residents equal protection under our laws. The Fourteenth Amendment forbids a state "to deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." The national government has found by disagreeable experience that it couldn't always fulfill its treaty guarantees. It has had to confess to other governments that mob violence within state jurisdictions had deprived alien residents of equal protection under our laws and that state and local authorities could not be coerced into making legal reparation. Similarly, mob violence has nullified the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees to American citizens. But that nullification has seldom moved the Federal government to apologize to itself.

There has been a twilight zone of impotency and irresponsibility between Federal power and state power. The Dyer bill wipes that zone off the map. If the state or the county fails to prevent lynchings its officials become accountable to the Federal government. Local communities which tolerate mob lawlessness must pay for their indifference. "Leading citizens" may no longer take part with impunity in "lynching bees."

If state or local authority suffers under the anti-lynching act it suffers deservedly. Local non-enforcement of treaty and constitutional pledges must give way to national enforcement. This is what passage of the Dyer act means. So understood, the state right outcry is without point. It is an argument for the Dyer act, not against it.

**The Building Wage Level**

**Demand for Moderate Reduction Along With Cost of Living**

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: The inference to be derived from reading the news article on the building situation in your paper this morning appears to be that the public is desirous of a continuance of the present intolerable wages in the building industry. Mr. Untermyer has suggested that these wages shall be continued for another period of two years, although they have resulted from what is alleged to have been an illegal conspiracy between the builders and the workmen.

It is certain that an agreement was signed between the Building Trades Employers' Association and the Building Trades Council providing for a scale of \$8 a day for the average mechanic employed in the building industry, commencing January 1, 1920, and ending December 31, 1921. It is also admitted that this agreement had been in force only a few months before Mr. Brindell demanded and secured an increase from the employers of \$1 a day, in order the better to advance the interests of the cause for which he is now temporarily residing in Sing Sing.

Notwithstanding the intolerable rentals of which the public complains so bitterly, and which are largely the result of this action of Brindell, and notwithstanding the fact that the cost of living has fallen about 20 per cent since this schedule of wages was enforced, a schedule which was not justified by the conditions existing at the time and is less justified now than then, we are confronted with the proposal that these wages, and the cost of building resulting from them, should be continued at the present prohibitive figures for a further period of two years.

In Boston, Philadelphia and other large centers there has been a moderate reduction in wages in the building trades, in harmony with the deflation in other lines. There is an enormous demand for building in New York, and large numbers of competent men, now idle, would be glad to work at wages 20 per cent less than those now ruling. It does not take much mentality to realize that the effort of the contractors to reduce wages proportionately with the reduced cost of living is in the public interest, and that the suggestion of Mr. Untermyer to keep such wages at their present level for two years longer is opposed to the public interest. Of course, the public can continue to be fooled if it enjoys the experience.

W. A. GARRIGUES.  
New York, Jan. 26, 1922.

**A Sufficient Reason**

(From The Kansas City Star)

German generals are still explaining why Paris did not fall in 1914. Paris did not fall in 1914 for the same reason it did not fall in 1918—in both years the German army that tried to take it was licked.

**One for Each**

(From The Washington Star)

By and by there may be enough conferences to enable every fair-sized town on the map to figure as the scene of a distinguished and historic gathering.

**The Tower**

ON A BORROWED TYPEWRITER  
COME, live with me and be my love  
(I've liked that line since first I read it.)

Or—since it costs too much to move  
For those who funny columns edit—  
Why not in your own mansion stay  
And be my true love, anyway?

I shall not swear, as Marlowe did,  
To bring the wool of lambs to you.  
No lamb I know, unless he's hid,  
As I have claimed, in lunch room stew.

I'll give no raiment, I'll confess.  
Beside, you have a real nice dress.  
I cannot take you out to dine.  
By what my purse says—I abide.

But sometimes when the weather's fine  
We'll take a pleasant trolley ride;  
Or, we'll stay home, and I'll be proud  
To read the ads of Childs aloud.

Oh, Phyllis, Corydon bestows  
On you no opera seat or box.  
He cannot, even if he goes  
And all his sparse belongings hocks.

But we can critically praise  
The music your victrola plays.

Who gets my love in times like these  
Should ask for no more concrete payment.  
Remember, lady, if you please,  
That tags are often royal raiment.  
I could not love you more, I know,  
If I'd a million bucks or so.

Now that the House of Representatives has passed a bill making lynching illegal, it does seem as though the Board of Aldermen might adopt an anti-cop-shooting ordinance.

F. F. V.: You might have added that when J. Throckmorton Cush wears his brown rubbers to the office on inclement mornings and the weather is more favorable for the return journey, at the close of the day, he makes a neat brown paper parcel of his overshoes, which he secures with a rubber band and carries it home under his arm.

J. T. C.

While on the subject of Mr. Cush's habiliments, his overcoat has a Persian lamb collar. The handkerchief which always peeks out of the breast pocket of his cutaway is silk. He blows his nose on the one he carries on his hip.

THE POSITIVE SUPERLATIVES  
AGENTS WANTED to sell our Dollar-a-Month accident, sickness and death policy for men and women; \$100 death from natural causes; nothing like it. Agency Dept. P. O. Box 2465, Boston, Mass.—The Fitchburg, Mass. Sentinel.

**Native Son's Retort**

Los Angeles Booster Exchanges  
Pleasantries With "Daisy"

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: I have read with interest of "Sunny California" as portrayed by "Daisy" in her letter published by you. May I be so bold as to congratulate that good lady upon her ability to run so true to the form of all New Yorkers? Has Utopia been discovered? Maybe those deceitful "Biggest Boosters in the World" had convinced "Daisy" that Sir Thomas More had California in mind all the time, but was being just too mean for words by keeping it a secret!

No, I cannot imagine any real traveler going anywhere in the winter time "without an overcoat, with nothing but summer clothes." Even on the Sahara, where a pith helmet and a large cake of ice were the things I most craved during the day, the extra blanket was a boon at night.

I am sorry that the absence of an army of policemen has so frightened "Daisy" that she does not drive about Southern California and enjoy the most remarkable system of good roads in the country and the comforting feeling which may be derived from the good road maps and direction signs kept up by the Southern California Auto Club. One does not discover a washout or detour when he gets there—the auto club will give by telephone all the information needed before the trip is commenced and recommend the best route. It is unfortunate that our guests should find our traffic regulations so "unusual," though I must insist that the young lady is mistaken when she says that we have none in Los Angeles. Traffic in all large cities has become an almost unsolvable question since the advent of the motor car. Why, only a few evenings ago in going by taxi from the Claridge Hotel to a West Forty-second Street theater it was necessary to make a detour up Broadway to Fifty-seventh Street and back on Eighth Avenue—a short trip of only thirty-seven minutes, and two blocks of walking. But, then, it was raining the same kind of rain that we have in California, and although we boast, we do not boast of dry rain.

As to the scarcity of policemen in Los Angeles, does that not also indicate the comparative absence of the daylight hold-up and pay roll bandit menace so common in New York?

But I like "Daisy." She compliments us highly as boosters—a virtue of which we are justly proud—but best of all she stands by her home town no matter what the rest of us think of it. But, "Daisy," when you can't boast, don't knock.

LOS ANGELES.  
Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 25, 1922.

**Handbag Psychiatry**

We never should have started this. Satan stood at our elbow recently and guided our hand while we wrote some trivial lines concerning the unconsidered value of women's handbags as guides to feminine psychoses. We co-operated with him even further. We announced with considerable vainglory our intention of pursuing the theory even into the reticule of our better half.

And now it must be told, despite our rapidly growing conviction that it will be our complex and inhibitions, rather than hers, that will be exposed thereby. Science, however, knows neither sentiment nor reticence. Therefore:

A mirror, three refund slips for milk bottles, receipt for a registered letter, two business cards of electrical concerns, three stray calling cards, a Red Cross membership certificate, a grocery memorandum, two dry goods sales slips, a notice from a head bag repair shop, a cigar coupon, diet list for son, August 2, 1921; diet list for son, December 30, 1921; handkerchief, dry goods sales slip, two parcel post receipts, a clipping of verse, hardware sales slip, address of a man we never heard of, a grocer's bill, card case with the rest of the cards, another parcel post receipt, butcher bill, bulletin of the Massachusetts Division of Ornithology, a letter, a bank deposit slip, a butcher bill of later date, two negatives, a list of plays, milk bill, fruit bill, change purse, our bankbook.

After twenty-four hours of frustration—and then—a cigarette throat treatment, we are beginning to wonder if maybe we aren't using too many lozenges.

Notice to Dr. Copeland: Add to flu suspects  
F. F. V.



**More Truth Than Poetry**  
By James J. Montague

Playing Safe

We have what we require  
And with it we make shift;  
We ask not more desire  
A million dollar gift.  
A fortune so colossal  
Might lead us far astray—  
With idleness and waste  
To waste our life away.  
And yet, should some one hand us  
This large amount of cash  
We'd take it, understand us,  
And take it like a flash.

We trust that you'll believe us  
When firmly we declare  
That it would sorely grieve us  
To be a millionaire.  
The simple truth we utter  
When we aver that health—  
Plus clothes and bread and butter—  
Are more to us than wealth.

Yet avidly we'd seize on  
The wealth that we disdain,  
For a sufficient reason  
Which we shall now explain.

For, if we stood up proudly,  
Our features hard and cold,  
And undulated loudly  
"Take back your tainted gold!"  
We are as Fate has made us,  
We're poor, but quite content.  
And nothing can persuade us  
To take a single cent!

If all attempts to budge us  
Proved futile and in vain  
A jury would adjudge us  
Quite hopelessly insane!

**His One Chance**

There seems to be nothing left for De Valera but to come over here and sign on as an understudy for Tom Watson.

**Prudent**

Bill Haywood apparently does not intend to come home to serve out that sentence until he has expired.

**There'll Soon Be a Senatorial Election**

We wonder if Mr. Bryan has acquired a legal residence in Florida yet.  
(Copyright by James J. Montague)

**The Hague Courts**

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: I notice that the Court of Nations is to meet at The Hague next Monday and that the representative of the United States is John Bassett Moore. Also that the Court of Arbitration meets in the same building. It would seem the subject should attract a good deal of attention, and would doubtless do so were it not that the Washington conference fills so large a place.

I would like to know the difference in the field of these two courts, which I suppose I should already know, but do not, and perhaps some others may have the same need.

HENRY H. SWIFT.  
New York, Jan. 26, 1922.

**A Correction**

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: In thanking you for the account of the work of the School Children's Free Lunch Association in your issue of to-day I beg to call your attention to an error. The association is feeding 450, not 46, children daily, as stated in the article. It would not redound to the credit of 150 members if we could not feed more than forty-five children. Could we ask you kindly to correct our statement? You see, we are anxious to increase our membership, and it would hardly be worth while for people to join to help 150 women feed forty-five children.

MRS. A. UNGER.  
New York, Jan. 26, 1922.

**Faith in France**

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: Some of us think that England and the United States seem more intent on disarming France than they do on disarming Germany. No one knows how many airplanes Germany has been building in the last three years nor how many factories are preparing to turn out new and more deadly gases for use in the next war.

Who was right in fearing Germany in the years before 1914, France or unready England and America? We might all of us be speaking German now but for France's wisdom and self-sacrifice. If we have regard for our own safety ten years ahead for our own safety before we doubt her good sense or her less soldier or one less ship than she thinks necessary. She knows.

Brooklyn, Jan. 25, 1922. M. F. M.

**Egyptian-Born Rooseveltian**

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: As a citizen I express myself in favor of the nomination of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt for the Governor of New York State.

My friendship with his father, the late Theodore Roosevelt, the greatest American, dates back to 1908, when he gave his memorable address at the University of Egypt. The Colonel's advice to the Egyptian Nationalists at that time was to uphold the English, and in his firmly expressed opinion no other form of government was as good for Egypt as English rule. I deeply regret that his advice was not heeded. Egypt would be far better off to-day if it had acted upon the Colonel's advice.

Later, when he came to Buenos Ayres, Argentina, in 1913, I met him again at the Colon Opera House, where I had the honor to congratulate him on his

**Inconsistent**

(From The Cincinnati Enquirer)

Why do Socialists of the United States attack our small standing army and applaud Lenin, who maintains the largest white man's army in the world?